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Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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TO: District Superintendents  
District EL Directors and Coordinators

FROM: J. David Sienko, Director  
Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports

Phyllis Lynch, Director  
Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum

SUBJECT: State-Defined Required English Language Instructional Program Exit Criteria

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), State Education Agencies (SEAs) are revisiting the process and procedures in determining the state established exit criteria for English learners (ELs). RIDE will be analyzing data from the two administrations of the new ACCESS 2.0 assessment over the summer of 2018 which may result in a change to the exit criteria that would be established in the fall of 2018 and become effective with the 2019-2020 school year.

In the meantime, new requirements under ESSA prohibit the use of the state large scale assessment scores as an option in lieu of a proficient score on the ACCESS 2.0. As a result of this change, the table on the following page has been revised. **Please be aware, the removal of the state assessment is the only change at this time.**

This document outlines the minimum criteria that English Learners (ELs) must meet in order to be eligible for exit from an English Language Instructional Program (ELIP).

The criteria outlined in this document are a minimum requirement for eligibility to be considered for exit from an ELIP. A student may not be exited from the ELIP unless he/she meets these requirements. However, a local education agency (LEA) is not under any obligation to exit a student who exceeds these requirements if the LEA has compelling evidence that continued participation in the ELIP is in the best interest of the student. Whether the decision is made to exit or retain a student who has exceeded these minimum requirements, the LEA must explain the decision to the parent/guardian of the EL.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Flavia Molea Baker (flavia.moleabaker@ride.ri.gov) at (401) 222-8480 or Emily Klein (emily.klein@ride.ri.gov) at (401) 222-8985 in the Office for Student, Community, and Academic Supports.

## **Exit Criteria**

There are three required criteria for exit from the ELIP:

1. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0®

- Literacy Composite score  $\geq 4.5$  AND
- Comprehension Composite score  $\geq 5.0$  AND
- Speaking Proficiency Level score above a district-established minimum

**AND**

2. Any three of the following criteria:

- Passing grades in all core content classes (as reflected on mid-year or end-of-year report card), or
- ESL/bilingual Education teacher recommendation, or
- At least two general education core content teacher recommendations, or
- At least three writing samples demonstrating skill not more than one year below grade level, or
- Score on a district reading assessment not more than one year below grade level as defined by the publisher or the district

**AND**

3. The student is in grades 1-12 (*Kindergarteners are not eligible for exit*)

Exception to the above criteria for ELs with disabilities:

An EL with a disability shall be eligible to exit the **English language instructional program** if:

- The student has an IEP, **and**
- The student has been continuously enrolled in an ESL/bilingual education program for more than five years, **and**
- The student's overall composite language proficiency score on the ACCESS for ELLs® has not increased more than 10% total over the most recent three testing cycles, **and**
- The IEP team, with input from an ESL/bilingual education professional, recommends exit